

GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2015

Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room

ATTENDEES

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Barrett on behalf of Colonel William Pallozzi, Michael Cohen, Jeanne Cooper on behalf of Secretary Sam Malhotra, Michelle Fager, Dorothy Lennig, Jordan Lysczek on behalf of Delegate Brett Wilson, Lisa Nitsch, Adam Rosenberg, Manuel Ruiz, Chris Shank, David Shultie, and David Wolinski on behalf of Secretary Stephen Moyer, and Jeanne Yeager.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Secretary Sam Abed, Rick Barth, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Attorney General Brian Frosh, Scott Patterson, Akeda Pearson, Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Arlene Lee, Lillian Lowery, Secretary Van T. Mitchell, Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, Senator Bryan Simonaire, and Joan Stine.

STAFF: Kim Herndon and Nakita Long

GUESTS: Stewart Bruce, Latisha Carter, Erica McMaster, and Michelle Siri

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Chris Shank began the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m. Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: Approve the Minutes of April 29, 2015 with the following corrections:
 - Under Council Members Present, correct the spelling of Secretary Sam Malhotra's name.
 - Under AIP Certification and Audit Process Review, correct the spelling of Dr. Tara Richards' name.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

NEW DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES/STATE BOARD COORDINATOR:

- ❖ Chris Shank advised that the Hogan Administration is victim focused and in order to have the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) adequately serve the needs of victims and become more transparent, GOCCP has reorganized and consolidated positions to centralize how they handle victim services as well as align state and federal funding.
- ❖ Mr. Shank introduced Kim Herndon, Director of Victim Services/State Board Coordinator with GOCCP. Mr. Shank and Ms. Herndon advised the Council of the following:
 - The Victim Services Unit now encompasses the Maryland State Board of Victim Services (MSBVS), the Governor's Family Violence Council, Compliance, and state and federal victim service grants.
 - For FY 2016, the Federal Government and Congress enhanced Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding from \$8 million to \$36 million.
 - GOCCP is conducting a statewide needs assessment to identify gaps in services and determine where funds would be best allocated.
 - The Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) will be posted late March/early April. A mass email will be forwarded when the NOFA is available.
 - VOCA funds have typically been used to fund domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse projects, however Council members were encouraged to contact Ms. Herndon with new ideas as GOCCP is looking to fund new projects in other areas.
 - There were no new 1st year MVOC grants awarded this cycle. GOCCP is reviewing the current MVOC funding process to determine ways to retool the MVOC grant process.

- The MSBVS is being restructured in an effort to be efficient in serving crime victims. The Board will be chaired by Steve Kelly.
- ❖ Michael Cohen advised that the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is also conducting a needs assessment survey of service providers and the information will be shared with GOCCP.

PRESENTATION: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANALYSIS

- ❖ Stew Bruce, GIS Program Coordinator and Erica McMaster, Senior GIS Project Manager at Washington College presented Crime Mapping Analysis data of statewide domestic violence incidents extracted from Maryland State Police Form 9B.
 - Mapping domestic violence incidents and protective orders enhances state analytical capacity.
 - The maps include locations as points and different geographic boundaries by county, census tract, block group, zip code, neighborhoods, and police district.
 - Nakita Long and Kim Herndon will work on developing an Ad hoc Committee to work with Erica McMaster to determine how to get the data out and help facilitate more questions in an effort to guide next steps.
 - Some suggestions for next steps include the following:
 - Map Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) forms with domestic violence incidents
 - Map respondent data
 - Re-title as Domestic Violence Criminal Incidents Reported as this analysis does not capture all domestic violence incidents.
 - Interlay child abuse mapping and protective orders.
 - Overlay service providers to determine if victims are coming in for services.
 - A suggestion was also made to use the maps during GOCCP's grant review process to determine where services are needed.

WORKGROUPS

- ❖ Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child
 - Meetings are currently being scheduled with law enforcement officers in various jurisdictions throughout Maryland in an effort to continue with the development of a protocol to help reduce causing additional trauma to children exposed to domestic violence.
 - The "Fighting in the Home: Is Your Child Being Affected?" brochure that was created by the workgroup is being reviewed again by clinicians in response to recommendations made by a focus group who reviewed the brochures. Once the brochures are finalized, they will be disseminated to different service providers and placed in various locations throughout the state.
- ❖ Best Practices for Family Justice Centers
 - The group has continued to research different Family Justice Centers, and have established the definition of what a Family Justice Center is and its core components to begin putting together recommendations for best practices of a FJC in Maryland. However, in an effort to determine where gaps are and develop best practices, the group has also discussed the following:
 - Conducting a needs assessment to determine what victims needs are and what resources are needed throughout the state.
 - Conducting a focus group to obtain input from the victim community and determine how systems would be used and where they would need to be placed.
 - Jodi Finkelstein, Co-Chair met with Vicki Sadevandhi, Executive Director of Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abuse (CASA), Inc. and Jeanne Yeager, Executive Director of Mid Shore Council on Family Violence to discuss Best Practices for FJCs in rural areas and have determined that while FJCs are appealing, they are not needed in rural areas of the State. However, they determined the following
 - There is a grave need for economic empowerment in these areas.

- The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice in Scranton, PA has a model that is similar to an FJC but focuses on economics.
 - Consumer law attorneys work with victims
 - Ms. Yeager, Ms. Sadvandhi and Ms. Finkelstein will tour the facility in Scranton, PA in the near future.
- ❖ AIP Certification and Audit Process Review
 - Meetings for this workgroup have been placed on hold pending the status of a BJAG award that the group submitted in an effort to fund a process evaluation. The process evaluation is to determine what the philosophies and goals are of AIPs in Maryland, what the current practices are, how AIPs are adhering to the Guidelines, etc.
 - BJAG reviews are taking place and a decision should be made by late August.
 - Lisa Nitsch is working with the MNADV to create a training for victim service providers on how to handle letters of support from service providers whom victim service providers have never met and to determine what a partnership should look like.
- ❖ Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders
 - Nakita Long advised that Martha Danner, DPSCS, was scheduled to attend today's meeting to provide an update; however she received an email from Ms. Danner this morning advising that there are no updates at this time.
 - Ms. Long was asked to follow-up with Martha Danner, DPSCS, to determine where DPSCS is with respect to implementing changes to their Offender Case Management System (OCMS) that were requested by the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup.
- ❖ NEW WORKGROUP TOPIC – VOTE
 - The new workgroup topics proposed for FY 2016 were Stalking to Include Electronic Harassment and Social Emotional Learning. Due to death in the family, Akeda Pearson was unable to attend to present information about Social Emotional Learning and its correlation to domestic violence. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the current workgroups would continue and Stalking to Include Electronic Harassment was chosen as the new workgroup topic. Dorothy Lennig was selected to chair this workgroup.

VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER:

- ❖ VPO Statistics
 - During the month of April 2015, there were 2,822 protective orders issued. There were 513 registrations which means that 18% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
 - During the month of May 2015, there were 3,073 protective orders issued. There were 520 registrations which means that 17% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
 - During the month of June 2015, there were 3,244 protective orders issued. There were 558 registrations which means that 17% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- ❖ Training
 - The following VPO trainings are scheduled to take place this year and others will continue to be scheduled at various victim service agencies throughout the year:
 - Frederick County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC)
 - August 20 @ 9:00 AM
 - Webinars
 - September 9 @ 11:00 AM
 - November 18 @ 2:00 PM
 - Statewide Onsite VPO Training (MD Police and Correctional Training Commission)
 - October 21 @ 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM
 - October 22 @ 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM

❖ Issues

- Nakita Long advised that she was contacted by the Life Crisis Center on July 8th and was advised that a protective order which was issued on June 23rd and served on July 1st, failed to reflect service in VPO. After researching the issue and working with Appriss, it was determined that VPO was down on 7/1, however Appriss or DPSCS could not provide a justification about why information was not received. Quality Control reported that the data feed restored itself and that the system rebooted after a certain period of not receiving data.
- A suggestion was made and Ms. Long agreed to send out a notification to service providers in the future if she discovers the system is down in the future.

❖ Brochures

- Revised VPO brochures have been received and have been disseminated to the courts, commissioner's offices, and various victim service agencies.

ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (2015):

- ❖ Three (3) AIP applications were submitted for certification in May this year. Applications were reviewed in June. A list of the applicants, which included the certification recommendation for each application was provided to the Council. Applicants will receive a letter of acceptance or denial during the month of July and the final list of certified AIP's will be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in August.
- ❖ As indicated previously, the Council agreed to forego the 2015 audit of Certified AIPs in an effort to have buy-in from AIPs to assist with the AIP workgroup's process evaluation research.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ The University of Maryland School of Social Work in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) first symposium to address intimate partner violence as a continuing public health crisis has been rescheduled for October 2, 2015 at 8:00 AM. Diana Cheng will provide more details soon.
- ❖ Latisha Carter, Victim Services Coordinator with the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) advised that the payout from CICB to domestic violence victims who loses support is particularly low.
- ❖ New Protective Order brochures which includes new legislation are now available and may be ordered from MNADV.
- ❖ The Maryland Children's Alliance's 12th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect is being held October 28 – 30, 2015.
- ❖ MNADV's Statewide Conference is being held on June 3, 2016 at the DoubleTree in Annapolis. There is a cost for sponsorships and tables. MNADV is seeking different topics for workshops.
- ❖ The Women's Law Center of Maryland's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony is November 4, 2015 at the Hunt Valley Inn. This year's awards recipients are the One Love Foundation and The Honorable Cynthia Callahan.
- ❖ September 1, 2015 is the deadline to submit all Department bills for inclusion in to the Administration's legislative package.

NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Nakita Long will follow-up with Martha Danner, DPSCS, to determine where DPSCS is with respect to implementing changes to their Offender Case Management System (OCMS) that were requested by the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup.
- ❖ Nakita Long and Kim Herndon will follow-up with victim service providers and Erica McMaster to facilitate more questions and obtain more data to guide next steps with Washington College's Domestic Violence Data Mapping project.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ❖ Meeting adjourned approximately 12:00 PM.